



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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USDA's ANNUAL JANUARY 1 CATTLE AND SHEEP SURVEYS AND NEW GOAT SURVEY

New England's cattle and calf inventory totaled 522,500 head on January 1, 2004, down only slightly more than one percent from the previous year. Calves born in 2003 totaled 235,600, four percent below the 2002 calf crop. Sheep and lamb inventory totaled 43,000 head across New England, a nine percent drop from the previous year. What is the current status of these two livestock species?

The January cattle and sheep surveys are part of a National program to establish official USDA statistics for the entire country. The results of these surveys provide vital information about the health of the industry which is used by farmers, grower associations, extension specialists, suppliers, lenders, and law makers when reviewing farm practices and policies.

The New England Agricultural Statistics Service will contact approximately 1,050 New England cattle operators to ask for their assistance in this nationwide effort to measure cattle inventories, calf crop, and death loss. In addition, about 225 sheep producers in the region will be surveyed to measure inventories, 2004 lamb crop, death loss, wool production, and inventory values. At the same time, approximately 300 goat producers will be contacted regarding inventories, 2004 kid crop, death loss, and inventory values. Both sheep and goat producers will be asked about predator losses experienced during 2004.

"These surveys are the only source of annual cattle and sheep statistics in New England. For the first time we will be publishing statistics on goats, based on a source other than the Agricultural Census. Farmer cooperation is essential in order to ensure that New England is clearly represented in the National livestock picture," said Aubrey Davis, Director of the New England Agricultural Statistics Service. All information about individual farms is held in the strictest confidence and the data are only used in combination with reports from other producers to prepare these livestock statistics.

Sample questions and a letter requesting assistance with this project will be mailed to the producers selected to participate. Interviewers will conduct the survey through personal or telephone interviews between December 30, 2004 and January 12, 2005.

National survey results will be available in the **Sheep and Goats Report** and the **Cattle Report** from Washington, D.C. on January 28, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. All reports are available on the Internet at www.usda.gov/nass/ within minutes of the scheduled release time and the statistics are reprinted in the monthly issue of the **Ag Review**. The New England **Ag Review** is available on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/nh/ and complimentary copies will be mailed to survey participants upon request.

[The New England Agricultural Statistics Service is a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Located in Concord, New Hampshire, it is responsible for agricultural statistics in all six States in the region. The office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through E-mail at nass-nh@nass.usda.gov. All National statistics and State level newsletters are available free from E-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>]

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